



Eleventh Street Ledger

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE 11TH STREET BRIDGE PROJECT

JANUARY 2011

11th Street Bridge Project Structures Continue to Rise Daily



A contractor for the 11th Street Bridge Project works to complete the landside connection of steel girders in Anacostia Park for the new inbound freeway bridge.

New structures of the 11th Street Bridge Project continue to rise from the ground almost daily, all with minimal impact on District residents, motorists and other important stakeholders.

More than a year into construction, the District's largest-ever transportation construction project is more than a third of the way complete.

For much of the first year, project construction consisted mainly of excavation, foundation and substructure work for project structures northwest of, southeast of and in the Anacostia River.

Since November 2010, however, neighbors and passersby on both sides of the river have witnessed new structural steel placed for one of the three new bridges, elevated portions of southbound I-295/DC 295 and connecting ramps to and from the SE/SW Freeway.

In the River

Overnight on Tuesday, November 2 construction contractors Skanska-Facchina set

the first of the 169 structural steel girders required to support the three bridges.

The girders, weighing an average of 34 tons and ranging in length from 60 to 130 feet long, were delivered by trucks from Wisconsin and offloaded onto barges in the Anacostia River.

From there, cranes hoisted the 7-foot-high, foot-and-a-half-wide girders into place at all hours of the day without impacting freeway traffic.

As of the end of January 2011, crews set 48 of the 54 girders needed for the new inbound freeway bridge, connecting the four bridge piers in Anacostia River and the bridge's southeastern-most abutment, or touch-down point, in Anacostia Park. Work setting girders connecting this bridge to the northwestern side of the river is to follow in early 2011.

In addition, crews prepared to begin setting the 52 girders for the outbound freeway bridge, starting with its landside connections in Anacostia Park.

Into Spring 2011, crews will attach steel

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Ward 8 Resident First OJT Graduate

There's a glint in his eye and a proud smile crosses his face when Lawrence Bradshaw Sr. talks about the delight his 4-year-old son Lawrence Jr. has in telling people "Daddy's fixing the bridge."

Bradshaw, a 24-year-old Ward 8 resident, works as an apprentice on the 11th Street Bridge Project after becoming the first District Department of Transportation graduate of the project's on-the-job-training (OJT) program in October 2010.



To earn his OJT graduation certificate, he completed 1,040 hours of on-site training while initially setting up and breaking down lane closures for the project as a Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) laborer for construction contractor Skanska-Facchina.

Bradshaw came to DDOT and the project in February 2010 through the Calvin Woodland Foundation, which provides qualified southeast District residents with job training skills and job placement.

The foundation helped him get training in tamping, jack hammering, shoveling, applying picks and leg boards, safety, all facets of MOT and basic Spanish.

Bradshaw credits DDOT, Skanska-Facchina and the Woodland Foundation with giving him an opportunity to better his and his family's life by providing him with valuable education and training.

He also relishes the long-term contribution he is making to the District.

"I look forward to coming to work every day," he said. "It makes me excited to know that the work I am doing makes a difference

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deck pans and reinforcing steel to the girders.

As the weather warms, they will begin placing concrete for the eight to ten-inch thick roadway decks in anticipation of opening both new freeway bridges to traffic by the end of the year.

At the same time, workers continued with substructure work for the new local bridge, constructing pier struts and caps to connect its river piles and later allow placement of steel girders on them as well.

The new local bridge is planned to open to traffic about a year later, in Winter 2012/2013.

Southeast of the River

While work continued in the river, crews southeast of the river continued constructing the more than 700-foot-long retaining walls for the starting point of new realigned portions of southbound I-295/DC 295.

By December 2010, work in this area advanced enough to allow crews to begin setting the 52 steel girders for the 1,000-foot long elevated structure. By January 2011, the girders were placed along existing southbound 295, over the existing inbound and outbound connecting ramps with I-295, Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue and 13th Street. Completion of their touchdown point, south of the existing 11th Street bridges, will soon follow.

In February 2011, crews are to begin attaching steel deck pans to the girders and placing reinforcing steel on them. As the weather warms, workers will place concrete for the roadway deck and install drainage structures in anticipation of having the new southbound I-295/DC 295 be the first new portion of the project to open to traffic in late Spring 2011.

At the same time, other new structures continue to rise up between the existing bridges, the highway, the river and Historic Anacostia.

As crews work to complete the touchdown points for the new freeway bridges in Anacostia Park, they also have begun building the land side touch-down for the new local bridge southeast of the river and its connection to Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue.

Concrete piers continue to be constructed for a future connecting ramp from the new outbound freeway bridge

to northbound DC 295. Workers also continue excavation, demolition of portions of existing highway overpasses and construction of new portions above Good Hope Road to allow widening of northbound 295 and construction of upcoming connecting ramps to both directions of the highway.

Northwest of the River

Between the river and O Street SE, crews continue to construct abutments for the new freeway bridges to allow steel girders to soon be set connecting the bridge to the northwest side of the river.

From M to O Street between 11th and 12th Street SE, demolition of retaining walls and portions of connecting ramps between the existing bridges and the Southeast-Southwest Freeway continued, as did installation of drainage structures and setting of structural steel for new portions of these ramps above N Street SE.

Early foundation work also continued for a future connecting ramp from the new inbound freeway bridge north directly to M Street SE. This will replace an existing ramp now carrying traffic to M Street via 12th Street SE.

By the end of January 2011, in the median of the SE-SW Freeway, workers built the first of four new piers needed north of M Street to construct a ramp to connect the new inbound freeway bridge to the freeway.

As work progresses on this ramp into Summer 2011, steel girders for the ramp will be placed above M Street and the freeway.

In addition, traffic traveling westbound from Pennsylvania Avenue to the freeway will be shifted to the left to allow crews space to connect the new ramp to the freeway in order to have it open to traffic when the new inbound freeway bridge opens in late Fall 2011.



CURRENT CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES

- 1 Demolition Work and Construct New Inbound/Outbound Freeway Bridge Abutments and Ramps
- 2 Complete Bridge Pier Construction and Place Steel Girders for Freeway Bridges
- 3 Pier and Steel Placement Work for New Outbound Ramp to Martin Luther King Jr. Ave.
- 4 Demolition, Retaining Wall, Pier and Steel Placement Work for realigned and elevated Southbound I-295/DC 295
- 5 Construct New Inbound/Outbound Freeway Bridge Abutments and Ramps
- 6 Widen Northbound 295 and build new ramp

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on something that Washingtonians depend on every day to get to and from work. I am excited to be part of something that will last for many years to come.”

Bradshaw encourages others who may be thinking about taking a similar path to “never give up, put forth your best effort and take advantage of everything you are offered.”

His reputation for hard work and dependability on the job have earned him opportunities to begin studying carpentry and take additional classes that will help him take the next steps in his career.

Bradshaw holds one of six training positions on the project.

DDOT and Skanska-Facchina are looking to increase that number to a total of 15 OJT or apprentice positions in 2011.



Ward 8 resident Lawrence Bradshaw directs traffic while helping set up a lane closure as an apprentice for the 11th Street Bridge Project.

For More Information

To get involved with DDOT’s workforce training programs, contact Linda Fennell at linda.fennell@dc.gov or (202) 645-8620.

For more information on 11th Street Bridge Project employment, vendor or subcontractor opportunities, contact Nyime Brown at Nyime.brown@skanska.com or 202-484-2330, ext. 162.

Skanska-Facchina also accepts walk-in employment inquiries every Friday from 1 to 3 p.m. at the project office at 1301 M Street SE, Washington DC 20003.

DDOT and Contractors Receive Stewardship Award

The District Department of Transportation, 11th Street Bridge Project construction contractor Skanska-Facchina and architect Jeff Peterson recently received Stewardship Awards from the Anacostia Community Boathouse Association (ACBA).

Through the award, ACBA recognized DDOT for minimizing impacts as it relocated the organization from between the existing 11th Street bridges to a new site north of the Sousa Bridge that improves public access and recreational opportunities on the Anacostia River.

Skanska-Facchina and Peterson were recognized for their roles working with DDOT to build and design ACBA’s new site, which restored a previously overgrown, polluted

and abandoned marine refueling station into a revitalized public resource.

“Relocating ACBA was a small piece of the 11th Street Bridges Project, but this group took the time to make sure ACBA’s needs were carefully considered and managed,” said ACBA President Jennifer Ney afterward. “Their partnership produced a facility that has improved public access to recreational opportunities on the Anacostia River.”

DDOT 11th Street Bridge Project Manager Said Cherifi gladly accepted the award on behalf of the department. “We are very appreciative of this award and proud of

how well we were able to minimize impacts on ACBA as we advanced the 11th Street Bridge Project,” he said. “Through our partnership in this effort, we took yet another step toward the District’s ultimate goal of revitalizing the river as part of the larger Anacostia Waterfront Initiative.”

In presenting the awards, ACBA Board Member Andrew Mergen also recognized the important contributions of former DDOT AWI Program Manager Greer Gilis Johnson and former DDOT 11th Street Bridge Project Manager Barton Clark.



ACBA President Jennifer Ney and Board Member Andrew Mergen present DDOT 11th Street Bridge Project Manager Said Cherifi with a Stewardship Award.



The ACBA Board also presented 11th Street Bridge Project construction contractor Skanska-Facchina representatives Steven Skippen, Bjarn Gudmunsen and Damian Ruppert with a Stewardship Award.

DDOT's AWI Program Under New Leadership

The leadership of the District Department of Transportation's Anacostia Waterfront Initiative Program has changed.

Dr. Gloria Jeff is the new interim director of DDOT's Anacostia Waterfront Initiative Program, of which the 11th Street Bridge Project is a part. In this role, Dr. Jeff is fulfilling duties formerly performed by Greer Gillis Johnson, who recently left DDOT for new professional endeavors.

In addition to her new position, Dr. Jeff also serves as DDOT's Associate Director of Transportation Operations, a position she has held since January 2010. In this capacity she is responsible for overseeing various areas such as Street and Bridge Maintenance, two Traffic Management Centers, Intelligent Transportation Systems and Snow Operations.

"Residents of the District have been very fortunate and will benefit for years to come from Greer's successful leadership of DDOT's various AWI programs and her role in helping advance the critically important



At left, Dr. Gloria Jeff and Terry Bellamy join other senior DDOT staff in bidding farewell to Greer Gillis Johnson, fourth from left, who recently left her agency roles as deputy chief engineer and Anacostia Waterfront Initiative Program Manager. Dr. Jeff is the interim AWI Program Director and Bellamy is the Interim DDOT Director.

11th Street Bridge Project from project planning through its first year of construction," said Terry Bellamy, Interim DDOT Director. "We wish her much future success and look forward to building up that success with Dr. Jeff."

Gillis-Johnson worked for DDOT since June 2008 and served from October 2009 to March 2010 as the department's acting Chief Engineer as the 11th Street Bridge began construction.



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